

F451 Guided Group Reading & Annotated Notes (p 53-63)

Group Members: _____

DIRECTIONS: Read each question carefully, regardless of whether you were assigned to provide an answer for it or not. Mark passages & transfer annotated notes into your book for study reference later. If there's a partial sentence "quoted" in **bold** below, that signifies the start of the paragraph where that answer can be found.

1. Describe the mood when Beatty enters the house. Notice his body language and the reaction from Mildred.

2. **"Speed up the film, Montag, quick..."**
Define "**centrifuge**" (p 55) as it's used in this context. Try deciphering it using context clues first, then you may check a dictionary for help.

"...Then, in midair, all vanishes! Whirl man's mind around about so fast under the pumping hands of publishers, exploiters, broadcasters that the **centrifuge** flings off all unnecessary, time-wasting thought!" centrifuge = _____

What does that passage mean?

3. **"The zipper displaces..."**
What is Beatty trying to say in the following lines:

"The zipper displaces the button and a man lacks just that much time to think while dressing at dawn, a philosophical hour, and thus a melancholy hour."

4. At what point do the readers realize Mildred knows about the book Montag's hiding?

5. **"More sports for everyone, group spirit..."**
Is Bradbury correct in his prediction about his future's society when he says that "The mind drinks less and less. Impatience." Discuss this with your group and come up with at least two real-life arguments that either support or refute this line.

6. **"Now let's take up the minorities..."**
According to Beatty, the government didn't declare that books were no good... so who (what) did?

7. **“Ah,” Beatty leaned forward in the faint mist....”**

What kind of a connotation (**OAA TERM!**) does the word “intellectual” have—positive or negative? How do you know?

8. **“Ah,” Beatty leaned forward in the faint mist....”**

Communism is a political way of thinking & a type of government. It’s based on the idea that everyone in that society should share equal amounts of land, money, and class. In short, in other words, no one can be more successful than anyone else, regardless of how hard or how much longer you work to become successful—all the money and land will be equally distributed. (The communist *leaders* are often the exception, however.)

According to Beatty’s rant, are they living in a communist society? How so? (Use textual evidence as support & record page numbers.)

9. **“Ah,” Beatty leaned forward in the faint mist....”**

Explain Beatty’s intended meaning in the simile, “A book is a loaded gun in the house next door.”

10. **“Ah,” Beatty leaned forward in the faint mist....”**

Beatty admits to Montag, “... (you were correct in your assumption the other night”)... What ‘assumption’ is he referring to? Go back and check in the previous pages if you need to.

Why then wouldn’t Beatty have admitted that to Montag the other night then (instead of waiting until now)?

11. **“You must understand that our civilization is so vast...”**

Beatty tells Montag that “our culture provides plenty of . . . pleasure and titillation” (excitement). He implies that technology is how the culture provides these things for its people, and that books are what interferes with this from happening.

What do you think? **Reflect and discuss** on our current society—we have a lot of technology. Do you think it makes people happier with it, or without it? What about books—does it make people happier with it, or without it? Record your thoughts about both topics here:

12. **“Colored people don’t like *Little Black Sambo*...”**

Beatty says the reason *Little Black Sambo* and *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (titles of classic books, by the way) are burned is because they’re offensive to some groups of people. ...**This is how censorship is justified as “OK” by some people.**

Is Bradbury right in this suggested prediction? In what ways might our society have become “too sensitive” to people’s feelings?

13. **“Beatty smiled. ‘here or there...’”**

Think about it---read Beatty’s words ‘between the lines’... What is the purpose of lowering the kindergarten age? Look for context clues in that paragraph.

14. **“Beatty smiled. ‘Here or there, that’s bound...’”**

According to Beatty, who is “better off dead”? Why would he say that?

15. **“Luckily, queer ones like her...”**

Explain the line: “If you don’t want a man unhappy politically, don’t give him two sides to a question to worry him; give him one. Better yet, give him none.” ...What does that mean?! How would that avoid making someone “unhappy” politically?

Is Montag “unhappy politically”? Why or why not?

16. **“Luckily, queer ones like her...”**

Define the word “brilliant” as Beatty uses in the following context: “Cram them full of noncombustible data, chock them so ... full of ‘facts’ they feel stuffed, but absolutely ‘brilliant’ with information.

17. **“Beatty got up. ‘I must be going....’”**

Who are the “Happiness Boys”? Why does Beatty use that term?

18. Do you think Beatty knows that Montag has a book? Why or why not? Use detailed support from the book to help you answer this.